

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

SUB A3
CONCL

1. A digital broadcasting system capable of causing one of physical channels selected by a broadcaster to be received as one of the channels available to users which is different from the physical channel selected by the
5 broadcaster; the system comprising:

means for storing, for each of programs of each of said channels available to said users, a program information record comprising PSI (program specific information);

means for permitting the broadcaster to include, in said PSI, channel
10 mapping information whose mapping destination is a channel (or a program) to be received instead of the channel for which said program information is intended;

means for inserting said program information records in broadcast transport streams on schedule and, if necessary, immediately after said
15 broadcaster have included said channel mapping information in said PSI data.

2. A system as defined in claim 1, further comprising:

means, responsive to a determination that PSI data for said program to be received includes channel mapping information indicative of a third
20 channel (or program) to be received, for changing said channel mapping information such that the mapping destination of said channel mapping information is said third channel (or program).

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3. A system as defined in claim 1, wherein:

25 said program information record further comprises channel ID of said channel selected by said user and program guide data for either the program for which said program information record is intended for or the program

identified by said mapping destination of said channel mapping information of said PSI data depending on whether said PSI includes said channel mapping information, and

the system further comprises means for inserting said program
5 information records in said broadcast transport streams.

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COND 4

4. In a digital broadcasting system in which a broadcasting center provides broadcast services through a plurality of physical channels which actually transmit service programs, a method for causing one of the physical
10 channels selected by a broadcaster to be received as one, of the channels available to users, which is different from the physical channel selected by the broadcaster; the method comprising the steps of:

storing, for each of programs of each of said channels available to said users, a program information record comprising PSI (program specific
15 information);

including, in PSI for a program said broadcaster desires to be received, channel mapping information whose mapping destination is a channel (or a program) to be received instead of the channel for which said program information is intended;

20 inserting said program information records in broadcast transport streams on schedule and, if necessary, immediately after said broadcaster have included said channel mapping information in said PSI data.

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5. A method as defined in claim 4, wherein said step of including
25 channel mapping information comprises the step of including channel mapping information whose mapping destination is a top-rated program or a channel transmitting said top-rated program.

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6. A method as defined in claim 4, wherein said step of including channel mapping information comprises the step of including channel mapping information whose mapping destination is a program of a specific category or a channel transmitting said program of said specific category.

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Sub B3 7. A method as defined in claim 4, wherein said step of including channel mapping information comprises the step of, in the event one of the currently broadcast programs enters its highlight stage, including channel mapping information whose mapping destination is said one of the currently broadcast programs or a channel transmitting said one of the currently broadcast programs.

8. In a digital broadcasting system in which a broadcasting center provides broadcast services through a plurality of physical channels which actually transmit service programs, a method for causing a sequence of programs selected by a broadcaster from the physical channels to be received as if the sequence of programs were broadcast via a channel selected by a user; the method comprising the steps of:

storing, for each program of said channel selected by said user, a program information record comprising PSI (program specific information);

including, in each of said PSIs, channel mapping information whose mapping destination is one of said physical channels (or said service programs) to be received as said channel for which said each of said PSIs is intended;

inserting each of said program information records in broadcast transport streams on schedule and, if necessary, immediately after including said channel mapping information in said each PSI.

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